



### **Message from the Mayor**

*Murrumbidgee Council's East Ward conducted a successful by-election on 10 March. Council welcomes Mr Pat Brown as the successful candidate.*

*It is important for all of the Council Community that we have our full compliment of Councillor Representation at the table.*

*We thank Shane Fraser and Haidee Laycock for a closely contested election.*

*Council has successfully attracted three "Stronger Country Communities Funding" allocations of \$700,000 in total :*

◆ *Pride of Place Coleambally Project*

◆ *Sporting Infrastructure Upgrade Project Darlington Point*

◆ *Racecourse/ Showgrounds Toilet Amenities Block Jerilderie*

*We congratulate the Project Go Team led by Graham O'Connell on your amazing personal challenge - your generosity and sense of community is warmly acknowledged - Thank you*

*Our congratulations also go to the Riverina Redneck Rally Team - your feats continue to amaze, well done to Gavin & Tammy Gilbert and their committed support crew .*

*Regards*

## Community Strategic Plan Meetings

Council held three community meetings to seek input from its residents into the 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The three meetings were interactive and well attended (52 people over three towns), being held at Jerilderie (27/2/18) Coleambally (28/2/18) and Darlington Point (1/3/18). Council has also received 66 community surveys and 103 youth surveys as part of its consultation process. The surveys were distributed to all residents and an online survey was also provided as part of the community consultation process. Community members reviewed the draft CSP and provided feedback on issues specific to Council, which will be incorporated into the Plan. There were a number of common areas that were identified by the community as priorities— developing industrial/residential land; gravel road maintenance and the important of economic, industry and business growth. Other feedback by town included:

**Jerilderie:** Promoting 'regional destination' experience, capability building and partnerships for grants, tourism to retain people in town for longer, improving water and sewerage infrastructure—particularly at the showgrounds, development and consolidation of (light) industrial land, transport improvements (main street), the importance of a broad economic development and a focus/strategy of jobs and growth to retain youth in the town. The meeting also confirmed the importance of transparent Council leadership and considering all aspects in decision making.

**Coleambally:** Criticality of alternative energy options (solar), recycling, waste management, animal controls, population retention and meeting community transport and connections, as well as a more simplistic CSP, road maintenance (gravel), disabled parking, infrastructure (repaving footpaths, painting) and access, ongoing communication between Council and the community (newsletters, social media) and partnerships linking state and federal stakeholders for industry and investment.

### **Darlington Point:**

Development of residential and industrial land vital to support potential town and business growth, a need to increase community facilities—aged care and youth drop in centre to support the community, consideration of infrastructure (low level weir), maintenance of walking tracks and gravel roads and using partnerships to achieve these projects.

A CSP meeting is scheduled with the community at Waddi Housing Corporation on the 6 April 2018.



*Members of the community attending a CSP session at Coleambally*



## ELECTION RESULTS

### Murrumbidgee Council By-Election - Murrumbidgee East Ward Saturday, 10 March 2018

The election for the Murrumbidgee East Ward was closely contested with the following results:

- 1. BROWN Pat (34.39% of total votes)**
- 2. FRASER Shane (33.76% of total votes)**
- 3. LAYCOCK Haidee (30.27% of total Votes)**

For more information visit: [http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/results/by-elections/local/2018/murrumbidgee\\_council\\_by-election\\_10\\_march\\_2018](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/results/by-elections/local/2018/murrumbidgee_council_by-election_10_march_2018)



Locals enjoying the annual Children's Fishing Competition at the Jerilderie Lake



Fishing Club member with a mighty catch from the Billabong Creek



Andrew Bell releasing fingerlings into the Billabong Creek

## COMMUNITY INTERVIEW: JERILDERIE FISHING CLUB (J.F.C.)

*Fishing is a common activity which connects the communities of Murrumbidgee. We asked Andrew Bell, President of the Jerilderie Fishing Club to tell us a bit about the Club.*

The Jerilderie Fishing Club reformed in July 2010 thanks to the efforts of the Darts Club, which consists of five blokes and guests who are all keen fishermen, and often used to complain to each other about not being able to catch native fish in our billabongs. We decided to start the J.F.C. with our main goal of restocking the Billabong Creek—mainly with Murray Cod and some Yellow Belly or Golden Perch. Since 2010, the Club's annual raffle, with great community support, has raised around \$33,000. \$19,000 of this has been used for fish restocking under the DPI 'Dollar for Dollar' Native Fish Stocking Program. This doubles the \$19,000 to \$38,000 in fish fingerlings (around 54,000 cod and 4,000 yellow belly) which have all been released into the Billabong Creek, 20 kilometres up from the Bolton Street Weir.

We are now seeing some good results, with a lot of cod being caught from 20 to 50cms which sustains a healthy fishing waterway. The Club also runs an annual free kids fishing competition in October on DPI's "Go Fish Day". The Club is currently in the process of building a jetty and boat ramp behind the Sports Club, funded with an \$18,500 grant from Murray Local Lands Services. This will be a great asset to the town. We also have a few Club trips, both locally and away, which are always good fun. The Club has about 30 members— all are welcome to attend our Committee meeting on the last Wednesday of each month.

**Article provided by Andrew Bell**





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 MARCH 2018

Over sixty people attended the Murrumbidgee Council's 2018 International Women's Day Event at the Darlington Point Services Club. Murrumbidgee Council Mayor and event MC, Cr Ruth McRae, noted the day was "all about advocacy and action, unity, celebration and reflection - and what that looks like globally at a local level". The International Women's Day 2018 slogan #Press for Progress asks us to commit to a "gender parity mindset", which, simply put, means to achieve equality between men and women, a fundamental human right.

Guest speaker, Kate O'Callaghan, CEO of Southern Cotton, gave an inspirational address on her "Work Journey". Kate's passion, thirst and commitment to education, diversification and continuing personal development is a just reward for a lifetime of dedication and self belief.

A big thank you to the Darlington Point Services Club, Gumview Cafe and Hygge Living & More for supporting the day, as well as Council staff Kesaya, Bridgett, Kerry and Sue.



Congratulations to the Jerilderie Sports Club for once again hosting a successful Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal Golf and Bowls Day. Approximately \$17,000 was raised on the day, with over \$1,800 donated through door to door "tin rattling". Well done to the Jerilderie community and all supporters of the day for such generosity. Funds raised will go towards supporting the RCH to invest in state of the art equipment and technology, continue ground breaking research and deliver patient and family centred care.

## ROCK 'N' ROLLIN' SENIORS

Rock 'n' roll was king at the Jerilderie Seniors Lunch held on Friday 23 March at the Jerilderie Civic Hall, and hosted by Murrumbidgee Council.

Veteran entertainer Ray Macartney entertained the crowd with many old time favourites, and some guests took the opportunity to take to the dance floor.

Mayor Ruth McRae welcomed the crowd of 110 to share morning tea and enjoy the entertainment, including some rock and roll trivia questions.

A delicious roast lunch and dessert was served to the crowd by St Joseph's Jerilderie School Council. A delightful addition to the day was the attendance of some of the year 5 and 6 students who helped serve the luncheon and even stayed to provide some clean up assistance. They were rewarded with lunch and also enjoyed a dance.

Mayor McRae said "this type of inter-generational engagement is part of what these days are all about. Well done to the students who did a fantastic job of serving and chatting with our guests on the day, and congratulations to St Joseph's for this terrific initiative."

Murrumbidgee Seniors have another opportunity to enjoy a luncheon at the Coleambally Community Club on 12 April. The luncheon theme is "Me and My Mates" and a feature of the day will be an item by the Ukelele Group.

Further information on activities being held in Coleambally are available from Kerri at Murrumbidgee Council 0427 600971.



*The St Joseph's 5/6 students did a great job serving*



## Excitement Builds as Applications for Stronger Country Communities Fund are Developed

Hot on the heels of a State Government announcement allocating more money to the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Murrumbidgee Council and community groups are working hard putting together community-based infrastructure projects for funding.

In February, Council was formally advised an allocation of \$3.8million would be available to Murrumbidgee Council for projects to improve the lives of residents and enhance the attractiveness of Murrumbidgee Council as a vibrant place to live and work. The Stronger Country Communities Fund guidelines stipulate that Councils are required to submit sport projects that total at least 50 per cent of the total Round Two allocation.

Since the announcement your Council has been working on a variety of 'big ticket' projects that meet the funding guidelines, and that were identified as priorities in 2017 community consultation processes. This includes:

- ◆ Sporting ground infrastructure in Coleambally and Darlington Point;
- ◆ Replacement of the 25 metre pool at Jerilderie.

If successful these Council led projects will improve sporting and recreational amenity, ensuring our sporting infrastructure is 'fit for the future'.

Community Groups have also welcomed the increased allocation of funds. Groups have approached Council to partner on well-supported initiatives to improve social well-being. The requests for funding are exceeding the available allocation. Community based projects include:

- ◆ Jerilderie Preschool Kindergarten Inc is proposing a new Preschool and Long Day Care Centre for families in Jerilderie.
- ◆ The Jerilderie Sports Club is looking at automatic systems to improve and assist the watering efficiency of the Jerilderie golf course.
- ◆ In Coleambally, the SweatBox Community Gym is looking for assistance with a new gym facility in a central location.
- ◆ Waddi Housing and Advancement Inc in Darlington Point is seeking support for a Cultural and Education Centre that showcases cultural connection to the land and the heritage associated with the former Warangesda mission.

It's not just sport, culture and education that is the focus of projects seeking Stronger Country Communities Funding.

Industry development and community training and events facilities are being proposed by Rice Research Australia P/L. The project aims to refurbish and repurpose the historic Old Barracks at Old Coree Station.

Priority projects and community driven applications will be referred to the State Government for assessment and decision-making. The applications must be submitted by 4 May 2018.

The partnership between community, Council and Government is being strengthened by these projects. In 2018 Council is continuing to source funding for the projects identified as priorities by the community. The breadth and focus of these sporting and social infrastructure projects bode well for a stronger future for Murrumbidgee Council communities, sports and special interest groups.

Keep checking Council's website for updates on projects, consultations and funding announcements.



### COLEAMBALLY NETBALL COURTS READY FOR ACTION

Construction and associated works of the Coleambally Netball courts were recently completed as part of the NSW State Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

The Coleambally Netball Club will play their first game for the season on the new courts on Saturday 21 April.





# COLEAMBALLY SOLAR FARM & WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Government (CEFC) investments in large-scale solar are accelerating the development of more than 1.3 GW of renewable generation capacity across NSW, Queensland, Victoria and WA. With a commitment of \$30 million in debt finance to NSW's largest solar farm at Coleambally, the 150 MW (AC) Coleambally Solar Farm being developed by Neoen Australia will house 565,000 solar panels on 550 hectares.

The solar farm will generate approximately 380,000 MWh of clean, renewable electricity into the national power grid each year, abating about 300,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually (equivalent to removing 90,000 cars or planting 530,000 trees) and making a major contribution to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction. It is expected to generate enough electricity to power more than 50,000 homes, and has contracted 70 per cent of its output to Energy Australia.



Site plan of the 150 MW Coleambally Solar Farm

The Coleambally site was chosen after a feasibility assessment confirmed there was an abundant solar resource at the location, which also boasts an existing electricity substation with grid connection capacity. Up to 300 workers are likely to be employed during the construction phase, which is expected to take around nine months from early 2018. Electricity generated from the solar farm will be transmitted via underground cabling or overhead transmission (132kV) to the national electricity grid. Power generated from the Coleambally Solar Farm will flow into the national interconnected network.



Ben Curphey and Dookie Bamblet from Tirkandi Inaburra performing a smoking ceremony' at the opening of the Solar Farm. Photo by Brett Naseby



Above: the boys from Tirkandi Inaburra performing a welcome dance at the opening of at the Coleambally Solar Farm. Photo by Brett Naseby

Photo by Brett Naseby

Left: Art designed by MAKE Group especially created for the Coleambally Solar Farm opening.

Photo by Brett Naseby.

Above, left to right: MAKE Group Barbara Freer, Lorna Wigham, June Weymouth, Verona Harrison, Dot Lidster, Gaye Moore. Janet Curphey Tirkandi Inaburra youth worker, Heather Edwards who presented Welcome to Country, Waddi housing representatives Angela Golding, Tamileigh Chirgwin and Kim Patten.

Photo by Brett Naseby







# 2018 RIVERINA REDNECK RALLY

After the mud had dried and the dust had settled, the 2018 Riverina Redneck Rally crossed over the finish line at Darlington Point on Friday 9 March. Over 50 cars and 11 support vehicles travelled 2500km on some of the roughest roads in the NSW and Qld Outback. The rally left from Hillston, travelling through outback communities such as Tilpa, Wanaaring, Bourke, Cunnamulla, Wyandra, Bollon, Hebel, Lightning Ridge, Grawin, Warren, Albert, Lake Cargelligo, Rankins Springs, Griffith and returning to Darlington Point. This year the entrants raised over \$272,000 for Country Hope.

With rain in the northern end of NSW and Qld threatening to put a halt on the Rally, at one point there was a plane on stand by organised to be ready to transfer meals for entrants to a more accessible route. Although the roads took their toll on many of the cars, we only lost one that was unreparable by the support crew.

Along the way the Rally delivered food hampers to the local schools, as well as over 300 new books for the school libraries and handed out shirts, hats and gifts to all of the local school children. All outback communities were so accommodating towards the rally, with one local offering his spare rooms to the support crew to have a good night's sleep after seeing how hard they worked late into the night to keep entrants' cars going.

Event organisers Gavin and Tammy Gilbert would like to thank Rivcott Cotton Gin, Murrumbidgee Council, Darlington Point Lions, UHaul Australia, Tim's Meats & Catering, Scott Hogan and all that have helped out in any way to make this rally a success. It is truly amazing how, in only its second year, this rally has raised over \$398,000 for a local charity where the community can see the funds being used to support children with cancer and life threatening illnesses.

Thank You Murrumbidgee Council residents.

**Article provided by Gavin and Tammy Gilbert**



*Drac Russell & Paul Sattler raised over \$18,300 to become equal highest fundraisers*



*Tammy Gilbert & Cindy Eldridge*

*Below: All Rally participants before the start of the rally*



## JERILDERIE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPTAINS & SRC

Mayor Ruth McRae was honored to be asked to induct the School Captains and Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2018 for the Jerilderie Public School recently. Good luck to all the students in their new and important roles!

Pictured from left to right: (Back row) Georgia Linder-Mason, Cr Ruth McRae, Katelyn Wilkinson and Abbey A'Vard.

(Front row) Jessica Wilkinson, Zara Williams, Sama Swaid, Evan Lawton.



## THE FACE OF MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL:

### Gillian Dunn—Coleambally

If you have been into our Coleambally Office you would recognise Gillian's friendly face.

Gillian is a valued staff member of Council who is always there to assist ratepayers, residents and visitors alike.

In her spare time Gillian has a number of interests and competes in a number of events, most recently the City to Lake. This 9km ride, walk, run is a fundraiser for the Griffith Base Hospital. Gillian was placed third in the over 55's category and 84 outright in a category of 285 women with an overall (running/walking) position of 167 from 418 with a time of 1hr, 31 mins, 31 seconds. She is also a keen badminton player, is involved in the Yamma Hall Committee and loves her crafts.

She and her husband Roger have had a farm in the area for many years.

We think Gill is amazing and a great asset to Council. Drop in and say hello if you are passing by Coleambally.



### INCREASED CHILDCARE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE SERVICES IN JERILDERIE

This year has seen an establishment of the Jerilderie OSHC (Out of School Hours Care) service providing parents and guardians with before and after school hours care for children aged 3—12 years. The service is also running a vacation care program over the upcoming holidays. This is a great service for the Jerilderie community, allowing parents flexibility with their working arrangements.

To enroll or for more information call 0459 662 625 or email [jerilderieoshc@outlook.com.au](mailto:jerilderieoshc@outlook.com.au)

The Jerilderie Preschool has also increased its hours this year, now opening on Wednesdays for 3 and 4 year olds.



**NATIONAL  
WALK SAFELY  
TO SCHOOL  
DAY  
FRIDAY  
18 MAY 2018**

## WHAT'S ON?

### Upcoming events

- ◆ 4 April to 15 April 2018-Seniors Week
- ◆ 12 April 2018-Seniors Lunch (Coleambally Community Club)
- Youth Week Events -Skate Park (NSW League):
- ◆ 14 April 2018-Darlington Point, from 10am
- ◆ 15 April 2018-Coleambally, from 9am
- ◆ 25 April - Anzac Day Services:
  - Coleambally:
    - 5.45am-Dawn Service
    - 10.45am-March & Service
  - Jerilderie:
    - 6am-Dawn Service & Breakfast
    - 10am-March & Commemorative Service
- ◆ 19 May 2018-Jerilderie Tractor Trek
- ◆ 20 May 2018-Jerilderie Show 'n' Shine & Tractors
- ◆ 8-11 June 2018-Coleambally 50th Birthday Celebrations

### Council Meetings - 10 am

- 24 April-Jerilderie
- 22 May-Darlington Point
- 26 June-Jerilderie
- 24 July 2018 -Darlington Point
- 28 August 2018 -Jerilderie
- 25 September 2018 -Darlington Point

### Contacting your Council

Council Branch Offices are located at:

**Darlington Point** - 21 Carrington Street

**Coleambally** - 39 Brolga Place

**Jerilderie** - 35 Jerilderie St

Phone: 1300 MRMBGE (676243)

E-mail: [mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

Web: [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

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# Murrumbidgee Council Presents Seniors Week 2018

**Monday April 9**  
Ukulele Workshop  
Coleambally Community Hall  
12pm-1pm (Limited Numbers)

**Monday April 9**  
Carving Workshop  
Men's Shed Coleambally  
10am-4pm (Limited Numbers)

**Wednesday April 11**  
Hand Massage and Pretty Nails  
Coleambally Community Club  
9:30am-11:30am (Limited numbers)

**Thursday April 12**  
Seniors Week Luncheon  
"Me and My Mates"  
And the Murrumbidgee Council  
Ukulele Group.  
Coleambally Community Club  
11am - 3:30pm

**Tuesday April 10**  
Wellbeing for All  
Coleambally Community Club  
10am-2pm

**Friday April 13**  
Eco Dyeing Workshop  
Coleambally Community Hall  
10:30am-3:30pm (Limited Numbers)

For more information please contact Kerri or Cherie at  
Murrumbidgee Council on 0427 600 971

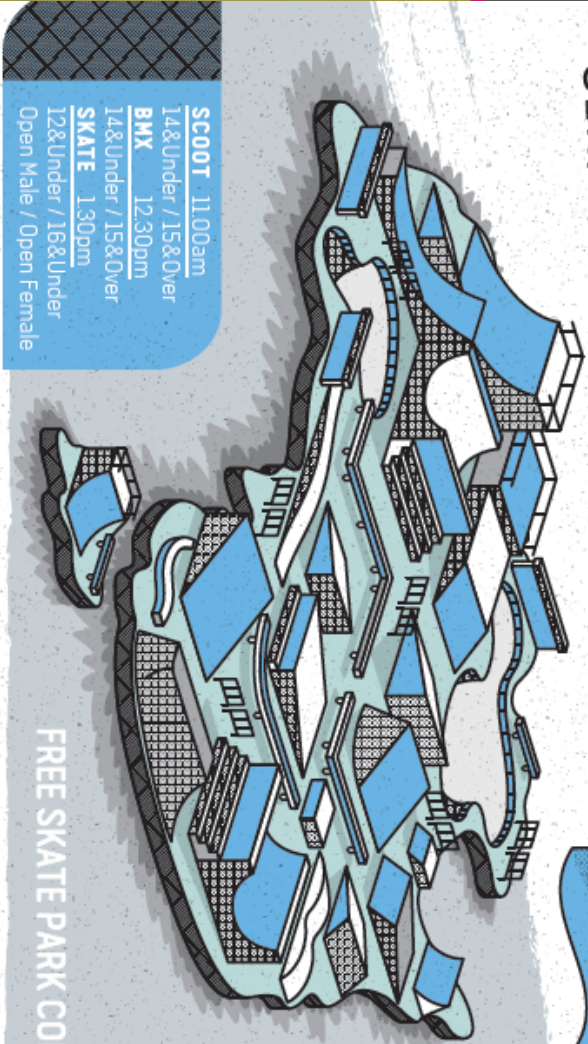


4-15 APRIL 2018

SENIORS FESTIVAL.NSW.GOV.AU



**SPL** SKATE PARK LEAGUES  
NEW SOUTH WALES SERIES



**SCOOT** 11.00am  
14&Under / 15&Over  
**BMX** 12.30pm  
14&Under / 15&Over  
**SKATE** 1.30pm  
12&Under / 16&Under  
Open Male / Open Female

FREE SKATE PARK COMPS

## DARLINGTON POINT

**SAT 14TH APRIL**

Darlington Point Skate Park - Carrington St, Darlington Point

## COLEAMBALLY

**SUN 15TH APRIL**

Coleambally Skate Park - Broлга Pl, Coleambally

Plus BBQ, coffee, cold drinks, art workshop w/ Kerri Weymouth & face painting!

Murrumbidgee Council logo, Nike logo, MEU Skate Shop logo, Skullcandy logo, PRO VTEC logo, GUNN logo, THIEVE TUMBLER TAPES LTD. dist. logo, CONDUCT logo, Murrumbidgee Council logo, WWW.SKATEPARKLEAGUES.COM, SKATEPARKLEAGUES logo with social media icons.